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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JANUARY 6, 2003

PETITION OF

UNITED TELEPHONE - SOUTHEAST, INC.

CASE NO. PUC-2002-00074

For Extended Local Service from
United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s
Saltville Exchange to its Glade
Spring, Meadowview, and Abingdon
Exchanges

ORDER PRESCRIBING NOTICE AND DIRECTING POLL

In December 2001, telephone subscribers in United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s ("United") Saltville Exchange petitioned the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for Extended Local Service ("ELS") to United's Glade Spring, Meadowview, and Abingdon Exchanges. On March 12, 2002, the Commission received from United a cost study for the Saltville Exchange that was used to estimate the change in monthly rates that would result from the requested local service extensions.

On July 16, 2002, the Commission issued an Order directing United to poll its Saltville Exchange customers to determine whether a majority of those customers were willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to the Glade Spring, Meadowview, and Abingdon Exchanges. United submitted the

results of its poll to the Staff on September 25, 2002. The majority of those responding supported the proposal.

On November 5, 2002, United submitted the cost studies used to determine the monthly rates for extended local calling from the Abingdon, Meadowview, and Glade Spring Exchanges to the Saltville Exchange. Because the resulting rate increase for one-party residential customers does not exceed five percent of the existing monthly one-party residential flat rate for the Abingdon Exchange, a poll of these customers is not required pursuant to § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia. A poll is required in the Glade Spring and Meadowview Exchanges.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of the petition, the poll conducted by United, the cost study submitted by United, and § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia, the Commission is of the opinion that United should poll its Glade Spring and Meadowview Exchange customers to determine whether a majority of those customers are willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to the Saltville Exchange of United and, pending a successful ballot in the Glade Spring and Meadowview Exchanges, publish notice in the Abingdon Exchange.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) United shall poll its Glade Spring and Meadowview Exchange customers to determine whether a majority is willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to its Saltville

Exchange. United shall file the results of its poll with the Commission on or before March 13, 2003, and, pending a successful ballot in the Glade Spring and Meadowview Exchanges, publish notice in the Abingdon Exchange.

(2) A copy of this Order and the results of United's Saltville Exchange poll shall be made available for public inspection at the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Upon customer request, the results of United's poll shall be furnished by United's customer service center.

(3) If the poll of customers in the Glade Spring and Meadowview Exchanges is successful, then on or before April 18, 2003, United shall publish the following notice in the Abingdon Exchange twice as display advertising (not classified advertising) in newspapers of general circulation in that exchange:

NOTICE THAT UNITED TELEPHONE-SOUTHEAST, INC.
PROPOSES TO EXTEND LOCAL SERVICE
FROM ITS SALTVILLE EXCHANGE TO ITS
GLADE SPRING, MEADOWVIEW, AND ABINGDON EXCHANGES
CASE NO. PUC-2002-00074

Telephone customers in United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s ("United") Saltville Exchange have petitioned the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for local calling to the Glade Spring, Meadowview, and Abingdon Exchanges. Customers in the Saltville Exchange were

polled regarding their willingness to pay an increase in monthly rates for local calling to the Glade Spring, Meadowview, and Abingdon Exchanges. The majority of those customers responding supported this expansion of local service.

Based on United's costs, the Commission determined the increase in monthly rates for customers in the Abingdon Exchange to call the Saltville Exchange (telephone numbers beginning with 276-496). The monthly rates would increase as follows: R-1 residential service, \$0.16; B-1 business service, \$1.52; Trunk service, \$2.29; and Payphone service, \$2.29.

Customers whose rates are not listed above or who desire more information on this proposed change should contact United's customer service center. Both residential and business customers should call 800-672-6242. Copies of United's Saltville Exchange poll results may be obtained by contacting the customer service center at the telephone number listed above. Copies of the poll results and the Commission's Orders in this case also may be reviewed at the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Customers wishing to comment on the proposed change to their local calling area or to request a hearing on the application may do so by filing such requests or comments in writing with the Clerk of the Commission, Joel H. Peck, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218, on or before June 6, 2003. Any such filing should refer to Case No. PUC-2002-00074.

The Commission shall convene a hearing on the proposed extension of the local calling area if at least the lesser of five

percent or 150 customers within the Abingdon Exchange request a hearing; otherwise, the Commission may consider the request without convening a hearing.

UNITED TELEPHONE-SOUTHEAST, INC.

(4) If publishing the above notice is required, as described in Ordering Paragraph (3), United shall provide proof of notice by May 9, 2003.

(5) On or before June 6, 2003, United's Abingdon Exchange customers who may be affected by this proposal may file with the Clerk of the Commission written comments or requests for hearing on the proposed increase that will result from the expansion of local calling. Any corporation shall be represented by counsel in accordance with 5 VAC 5-20-30 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure and shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of any comments or requests for hearing on or before that deadline. Individuals may file single copies. All comments or requests for hearing shall be filed with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218, and shall refer to Case No. PUC-2002-00074.

(6) On or before June 20, 2003, the Division of Communications shall file a report with the Commission on any comments received and poll results.